



DIOCESE of  
**WINCHESTER**



**Diocese**  
of **Portsmouth**

Steve Crocker  
Director of Children's Services  
Hampshire County Council  
Winchester  
SO23 8UG

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Dear Steve

As you are aware Hatherden Church of England primary school has been sitting on an academy order for two years.

The Regional Schools' Commissioner has been unable to source a Multi Academy Trust to run the school, and we remain concerned about the capacity within the school to flourish without the current intensive LA and Diocesan support.

With the haemorrhaging of pupils the viability of the school is a concern. We have worked closely with senior colleagues at the LA to explore options.

There is a surplus of places in schools locally, including Church of England schools, therefore we have to consider ongoing educational, financial and other factors. We have discussed with LA officers the possible closure of the school, and are in agreement that a formal consultation should begin.

We remain committed to work with the LA to ensure that children at the school continue to receive the best possible teaching and leadership despite the current context, which is unlikely to be reversed.

Yours faithfully

**Jeff Williams**  
**Director of Education**

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